

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor(s), I/We hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter, which is claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled:

RING BINDER MECHANISM

This declaration is directed to:

☒ the attached application
(for original application)

Application No. _____
filed _____, and amended on _____

(for declaration not accompanying application)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Application No.	Country	Filing Date	Priority Claimed (yes or no)
100 20 200.4	Germany	April 25, 2000	yes

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in a listed prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge my duty to disclose any material information under 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Filing Date	Status (patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby appoint Stephan A. Pendorf, Reg. No. 32,665; Yaté K. Cutliff, Reg. No. 40,577 and Evelyn A. Defillo, Reg. No. 45,630, my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and request that all correspondence about the application be addressed to Stephan A. Pendorf at Pendorf & Cutliff, P.O. Box 20445, Tampa, FL 33622-0445.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date <u>15. 10. 2001</u>	First Inventor	Hans	Johann	HORN
		First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
Residence <u>Junkerngasse 53, CH-3011 Bern,</u>	Signature			
Switzerland	Mailing Address	<u>Junkerngasse 53, CH-3011 Bern, Switzerland</u>		

Citizenship Swiss

"EXPRESS MAIL" LABEL NO. EL 508148051/US
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS MAIL" FIRST-CLASS TO ASSURE DELIVERY UNDER SPECIAL DELIVERY SERVICE TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20251, ON THIS DATE. THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY FEES ARISING HEREFROM AT ANY TIME TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 10-057.

DATE 15/10/01 SIGNATURE Stephan A. Pendorf